

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 01142 111803Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
OMB-01 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 EB-08 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIAE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 /073 W  
-----111815Z 011138 /46

O R 111702Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8976  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO  
USEC BRUSSELS  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1142

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: HIGH MILITARY OFFICIALS SPEAK ON POLITICAL, MILITARY TOPICS

1. IN A SPEECH DELIVERED IN SEVILLE AND WIDELY HAILED  
IN THE PRESS FOR ITS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE GENERAL  
GUTIERREZ MELLADO, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEFENSE AFFAIRS,  
EXPRESSED THE ARMED FORCES ADHERENCE TO THE KING'S  
DIRECTIVES.  
UNDERScoreD THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECENTLY CREATED  
DELEGATED COMMISSION FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS"  
IN DEMONSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY THE GOVT TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 01142 111803Z

THE URGENT SOLUTION OF MILITARY PROBLEMS.  
NOTED THE RECENT ROYAL DECREE ON CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS  
COULD REQUIRE REVISION DEPENDING ON HOW IT WORKED OUT  
IN PRACTICE:  
REFERRED TO THE "OBLIGATORY NEUTRALITY" OF THE  
ARMED FORCES WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL OPTIONS WHICH  
RESPECT LEGALITY AND ACCEPT THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF

SOVEREIGNTY UNITY, INTEGRITY, SECURITY OF THE FATHERLAND AND LIBERTY OF ITS CITIZENS", AND REFERRED TO AN UPCOMING DECREE (NOW ISSUED) ON MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS:

VOWED IMPROVEMENTS IN MILITARY TRAINING, FRINGE BENEFITS EQUIPMENT AND PROMOTIONS,

PRAISED THE KING AND THE DECISION OF THE GOVT AND ITS PRIME MINISTER TO CONSOLIDATE THE CROWN FOR THE PERIOD WHICH IS NOW BEGINNING".

SCORED DEFEATISTS AND DOOMSAYERS"

HAILED THE PATRIOTISM OF THE GOVT AND ITS MEMBERS NOTING THAT FOUR OF THE MEMBERS ARE MILITARY.

DECLARED "LET NO ONE, THEN, THINK THAT THE ERROR WILL BE COMMITTEED OF DROPPING ONE ELEMENT IN THE GUARDING OF OUR SECRED MISSION OF GUARANTEEING THE HONOR, THE SOVEREIGNTY THE INDEPENDE AND THE INTEGRITY OF OUR FATHERLAND", AND

ASKED THAT THE RECENT DEATHS SERVE TO BRING UNITY AND PUT AN END TO VIOLENCE.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 8 IN THE AFTER NOON INFORMACIONES, NEW ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF VEGA RODRIGUEZ DECLARED THA ERMY IS "A DISPASSIONATE, ALTHOUGH CONCERNED OBSERVER" OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL PROCESS.

AFFIRMED (IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION) "THE ARMY DOES NOT WISH IN ANY CASE THE ASSUPMTION OF POLITICAL POWER IT COULD IN VERY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, FILL A POWER VACUUM, BUT IN NO CASE DISPLACE LEGITIMATE (POWER)" ASSERTED FIRM UNITY WITH THE ARMY AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 01142 111803Z

DUCKED A QUESTION ABOUT THE ARMED FORCES, VIEW OF THE EVENTUAL ENTRY OF SPAIN INTO NATO.

3. COMMENT THE WORDS OF NEITHER OF THESE TWO REFORM MINDED MILITARY LEADERS WERE NEW. BUT GUTIERREZ MELLADO'S WERE ISSUED ON THE HOME GROUND OF THE ULTRA CONSERVATIVE CAPTAIN GENERAL OF THE SEVILLE AREA, LT, GEN MERRY GORDON, AND THUS DOUBLY TESTIIFED TO THE STRENGTH OF THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S CONVICTIONS ON THESE MATTERS AT THE SAME TIME HIS CONSIDERABLE EMPHAHASIS ON PAY,ALLOWNACES AND RETIREMENT MATTERS REFLECTS A LEVEL OF UNEASINESS IN THE MORE SENIOR RANKS OF THE ARMED FORCES ABOUT THIS ASPECT OF THE PROFESSIONAL REFORM EFFORT HE HAS SPEAR HEADED IN THE MILITARY.

4. THE DECREE LAW ON POLITICAL AND LABOR ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES (TEXT BEING REPORTED BY SUDAO) WAS ISSUED BY THE GOVT ON FEB 10. ALTHOUGH SOME MILITARY OFFICERS MAY BE WONT TO SAY ITS WORDS CREATE NOTHING NEW, THE FACT OF ITS

ISSUEANCE CERTAINLY DOES, FOR BY PUTTING THE RULES IN WRITING THE LEADERSHIP IS BY IMPLICATION SAYING THAT WHAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PROHIBITED FOR OFFICERS DIFFERING FROM THE OFFICIAL LINE IS NOW PROHIBITED FOR ALL. IT SHOULD BE WELCOMED THUS, PARTICULARLY BY JUNIOR OFFICERS AS WELL AS BY THE REFORM MINDED IN CIVILIAN LIFE.

5. IN THE ESTABLISHED LEXICON OF STATEMENTS IN THIS AREA, VEGA'S REMARK ABOUT A POWER VACUUM CAN IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED AS THREATENING AND NO SUCH INTERPRETATION HAS BEEN MADE HERE SO FAR AS WE HAVE HEARD. RATHER GUTIERREZ MELLADO AND THE GOVT. AND HE HIMSELF IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE ARMY HIERARCHY'S ESTABLISHED SUPPORTED OF THE REFORM PROCESS AND THE MONARCHY.

6. VEGA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR AT DINNER AT THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MADRID 01142 111803Z

RESIDENCE ON FEB 9 THAT HIS DECLARATIONS AND THOSE OF OTHER SENIOR ARMY LEADERS WERE AIMED AT HELPING THE GOVT TO CALM THE ATMOSPHERE DOWN SO THAT THE REFORM PROCESS COULD PROCEED NORMALLY. HE STATED THAT SUPPORT FOR THE REFORM PROCESS WAS WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT HE STRONGLY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE WANTED A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TOWARD DEMOCRACY WITHOUT "ADVENTURES OF ANY SORT".STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, POLICIES, KING, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MADRID01142  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770049-1126  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770250/aaaabshc.tel  
**Line Count:** 148  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d0f1f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3344193  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HIGH MILITARY OFFICIALS SPEAK ON POLITICAL, MILITARY TOPICS  
**TAGS:** PINT, SP, (MELLADO, GUTIERREZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d0f1f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009